

The Center for Health Information Technology and Innovative Care Delivery

January 2016

About the Center for Health IT and Innovative Care Delivery

The Maryland Health Care Commission's (MHCC's) Center for Health Information Technology and Innovative Care Delivery (Center) is responsible for advancing the adoption and meaningful use of health information technology (health IT) throughout the State with the aim of improving the experience of care, the health of the population, and reducing costs of care. Key aspects of health IT include electronic health records (EHRs), health information exchange (HIE), telehealth, and innovative care delivery. The Center's initiatives focus on transforming care delivery by balancing the need to share health information electronically with the need for strong privacy and security policies.



Advancing Health IT

The Center's health IT and innovative care delivery initiatives include:

- Identifying and addressing health IT implementation and interoperability challenges
- Diffusing HIE statewide while maximizing privacy and security of electronic health information
- Expanding the use of telehealth in long-term care, ambulatory care, and hospital settings
- Advancing innovative value-based care delivery models
- Designating management service organizations (MSOs) to assist providers with implementing health IT
- Maximizing electronic data interchange (EDI) between payors and providers
- Certifying electronic health networks (EHNs) that meet national standards for exchanging electronic health care transactions.

Center Divisions

Health Information Technology Division

The Health IT Division assesses health IT in a variety of health care settings to help inform program development. The Division collaborates closely with stakeholders to manage the Center's initiatives to promote EDI and health IT among payors and providers; establishes MSO State Designation criteria; and develops initiatives aimed at expanding telehealth.

Health Information Exchange Division

The HIE Division works with Maryland's State-Designated HIE, the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), to promote HIE use among health care providers. The HIE Division also promotes community-based HIEs, develops privacy and security policies, certifies EHNs, and works to increase awareness of EHRs among providers.

Innovative Care Delivery Division

The Innovative Care Delivery (ICD) Division supports advanced care delivery models that aim to improve the quality and efficiency of health care delivery. The ICD Division promotes diffusion of care delivery models such as the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), and value-based purchasing models.

Key 2016 Initiatives

Highlights of the Center's from 2015 include:

- **Telehealth grants.** The Center awarded three rounds of grants, providing a total of nine awards. Grantees are required to use nationally certified EHRs and CRISP HIE services to implement telehealth technology to demonstrate its impact on improving the patient experience and the overall health of a population being served. The Center supports grantees through regular status calls, site visits, and shared learning calls.
- **Collaboration with CRISP.** The Center continues to provide guidance and policy development to CRISP as it builds and maintains the technical infrastructure to support and enable the statewide exchange of electronic health information. CRISP facilitates the secure exchange of electronic health information among hospitals, physicians, pharmacies, and other care providers. CRISP also offers interstate connectivity to certain hospitals and health care providers in the District of Columbia and Delaware.
- **Electronic Preauthorization.** The Center works with payors and pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) to implement electronic preauthorization processes. Electronic preauthorization allows patients to access medical and pharmaceutical services more quickly than traditional, time-consuming methods of preauthorization such as phone calls and faxes.
- **Hospital Health IT Survey.** Each year, the Center completes an assessment of health IT adoption and planning trends among all 47 acute care hospitals in the State. The Hospital Health IT Survey includes information on hospitals' participation in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs, their use of data analytics for population health management, and benchmarks Maryland's progress against hospitals nationally.
- **EHR Product Portfolio.** The EHR Product Portfolio is a web-based resource for Maryland's health care providers to compare nationally certified EHR systems. The EHR Product Portfolio contains information pertaining to EHR costs, functionalities, and features, as well as user ratings to help guide care providers in their EHR purchase decisions.
- **The Multi-Payor PCMH Program.** The Multi-Payor PCMH program (MMPP) works with 52 primary care practices and multiple payors and benefits programs to transform practices in ways that improve provider satisfaction, increase quality of care, lower costs and utilization, and reduce disparities. The MMPP for commercial payors concluded at the end of 2015, practices are able to participate in the MMPP for Medicaid through June 30, 2016.

For more information on the Center for Health Information Technology and Innovative Care Delivery, visit <http://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hit/hit/hit.aspx>.